



H. B. McDaniel Award Winners

2002 Group Winner

Sweetwater Union High School District (Systems of Support)

Program Description:

Sweetwater Union High School District adopted a county-based student assistance process and molded it into a comprehensive and coordinated program called “Systems of Support.” It is a multi-pronged approach that incorporates the need for inclusive schools that have effective referral processes as well as well-functioning parent, community and agency partnerships. At its heart, the framework promotes youth development: all schools help students bond with successful adults and peers to develop pro-social skills. School counselors play essential roles in the process. Supported by the American School Counselor Association National Standards, school counselors conduct support groups, lead human relations conferences, help with peer mediation, as well as act as site prevention contacts for community agencies. A strong community collaboration component allows each school site to offer a “menu of services” as intervention possibilities for their students. Unique school-police programs contribute to school safety and positive climate. School Safety and Violence Prevention Act (AB1113) funds supplement other school funds to provide additional counseling and coordination.

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